

Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Gendarmerie royale du Canada

February 11, 2022

Commanding Officer
Alberta

Commandant
de l'Alberta

Mr. Brad Wozny
Regional Director General, Prairie Region
Canada Border Services Agency
Rm. 800-269 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3C-1B3

Dear Mr. Wozny,

As you are aware, a group of protesters have been blockading the Coutts/Sweetgrass Port of Entry (POE) since Saturday January 29, 2022.

The Alberta RCMP had managed to negotiate a partial opening in the blockade, which allowed some traffic to cross the border. To ensure the safe passage of vehicles with legitimate rationale for accessing and crossing the border and to control the number of protestors on site, the Alberta RCMP established a checkpoint north of the Coutts/Sweetgrass POE. However, since the evening of Wednesday February 9, 2022, the protestors have completely blocked all lanes of traffic, once again shutting down access to the POE. The protest group has stated that they will not allow any further traffic to pass through the blockade until their demands to the Federal and Provincial Governments are met.

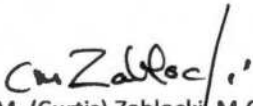
Limited local traffic has been allowed to use the POE and, on at least one occasion, a protest support vehicle crossed northbound through the POE, bringing food and supplies to the protestors on the Canadian side of the border. Knowledge of this way of accessing the protest site is spreading amongst protest support groups. In addition, we have become aware of other groups planning to set up protest and blockade actions on the United States side of the border crossing. Inability to monitor and control this access to the protest site creates a significant security concern for us.

To ensure that we collectively have control over vehicle access to the protest site, I am requesting that the CBSA close the Coutts/Sweetgrass POE to all northbound traffic. This closure would remain until the protestors are agreeable to allowing public and commercial traffic to flow through the port.

The Alberta RCMP is grateful to CBSA for your support and assistance during this time. The cooperation we have received from CBSA to date, particularly from the Coutts POE staff, has been exceptional.

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me at your convenience.

Regards


C. M. (Curtis) Zablocki, M.O.M.
Deputy Commissioner
Commanding Officer Alberta RCMP

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